



FEMA

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Recovery News

ONE MONTH AFTER THE KIHOLLO EARTHQUAKE, ASSISTANCE TO HAWAII APPROACHES \$13 MILLION

HONOLULU, Hawaii — In the month following the October 15 Kiholo Earthquake, more than 2,700 families and individuals have applied for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the State of Hawaii, and \$12.8 million in grants and loans have been awarded, state and federal officials announced today.

Through November 15:

- **\$6,147,238** has been approved through the FEMA Housing Program. Housing assistance provides grants to renters to find alternate housing. Homeowners may receive grants to make the home livable or, if that cannot be done, grants are given to rent alternate housing. The program is funded 100 percent by FEMA.
- **\$21,595** in grants has been approved for 75 applicants under the FEMA/State Other Needs Assistance Program (ONA). These grants cover personal property, transportation, medical and dental expenses, and those who have serious and essential unmet needs.
- **\$6,695,500** in low-interest disaster loans have been approved for 175 home owners, renters and business owners by the U.S. Small Business Administration for disaster-damaged personal property, real estate or economic injury.
- **2,118 homes** have been inspected for earthquake damage.
- **1,914** earthquake victims have been assisted at the disaster recovery centers since October 27.

People in Hawaii County who suffered losses due to the earthquakes are urged to visit a State/FEMA Disaster Recovery Center, which will be closing soon. The following Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) remain open:

N. Kohala, open through November 18, Senior Center, Old Courthouse, 54-3900 Akoni Pule Highway, Kapa'au. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Waimea, open through November 21, Parker Ranch Shopping Center, 67-1185 Lindsey Rd., Suite H139. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Na'alehu, open Thursday, November 16 and Friday November 17. A mobile unit will be located at the Na'alehu Park and Community Center. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

(more)

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Hawaii County residents who suffered losses or damages as a result of the earthquake can follow up on their registrations at any of the DRCs.

Those affected by the disaster are urged to **register for assistance first by calling toll-free 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY)** for the hearing and speech impaired, from **6 a.m. to 6 p.m.** (local time), seven days a week. Hawaii County residents also can register online at www.fema.gov at any time.

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FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses. Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal Rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

State Civil Defense coordinates state-wide emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs for a wide range of natural and human-caused threats and disasters including terrorism. As part of its responsibilities, State Civil Defense manages state and federal grants provided to local communities for disaster recovery and mitigation.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident, initiates mitigation activities and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works closely with state and local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other first responders. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.